

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Rhinehart Music Center
IUPUI Fort Wayne Campus
Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 13, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Richard Stifel, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Mirro, Ron Stratten, Karen Ellerbrook., Kelly Schreckengast, Leonard Pas, Earl Williams, Sandra Clark, Steve Tuchman, Richard Stifel, Irene Smith-King

Members absent: William Hopper, Suzanne Rentschler, Pam Hicks, Judy Hess.

IAC Staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Bobbie J. Garver, Susan Britsch, Rex Van Zant, April Blevins, Sarah Heying.

Guests: Jeff Kuehl (Regional Arts Partners chair); Jan Shupert-Arick (Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne) John Cain and Donna Catalano (South Shore Arts), Jill Watson (Jasper Community Arts Commission), John Schoolman, traditional artist.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mr. Stifel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He extended thanks to commissioner Mirro for her work in organizing the events of the day.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Mirro moved to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Pas seconded. Motion passed.

3. **Chair and Executive Reports.**

A. Chair's Report.

(1). Governor's Office Issues. Mr. Stifel reported on continuing discussions with the Governor's office concerning IAC recommendations for new commissioners. Mr. Ricci presented the list of candidates which IAC forwarded to the Governor's office, and reviewed the current vacancies, which will total six at the end of June 2008. Mr. Stifel clarified that members who have reached the end of their terms are still considered voting members of the commission until their replacements have been appointed. He also reminded all members to continue looking for good candidates in their geographical areas and to submit those names to the chair.

(2,3). Mr. Stifel commented on recent efforts to schedule a meeting for IAC leadership with the Governor, followed by a meeting with Chris Ruhl, director of the State Board of Accounts; both meetings are to discuss future budget issues. Dates for these meetings have not been set. There is also a desire for IAC leadership to meet with candidates for the upcoming gubernatorial election.

B. Executive Committee Report

(1). 2009 Increases and Program Approval. Mr. Ricci referred to a handout explaining FY2009 budget increases: the National Endowment for the Arts increased its allocation for FY2009; there is interest money available for use from the Cultural Trust; and there is interest money available from the Indiana Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Ricci reported on the amounts available from each source, and identified the programs to be funded from them. These programs include arts education grants for schools, funding of a state-wide arts education summit, funding to launch a state-wide Presenter Touring Program, and funding of a staff position at Indiana University to compile arts education data. These programs are all recommended and approved by the executive committee. Discussion came from Ms. Schreckengast, Mr. Stratten, and Mr. Tuchman. Ms. Clark moved to accept the recommendations for approval of the programs; Ms. Schreckengast seconded. Motion passed.

(2). Cultural Trust Interest Withdrawal. Mr. Tuchman reported on the amount of money which is now available from the Cultural Trust, and explained the involvement of the State Treasurer's office and other members of the Cultural Trust Advisory Board. Mr. Ricci presented a handout showing the amount of interest currently available from the fund. Mr. Stratten moved to approve withdrawal of available funds from the Cultural Trust; Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

(3). Officers and Committee Chairs for FY2008 – 2009. The slate of candidates for officers of the commission was presented: Mr. Stifel, Chair; Ms. Mirro, Vice-chair; Ms. Clark, Secretary/Treasurer. These three were excused from the meeting to facilitate discussion. The discussion was brief and positive. Mr. Pas moved to accept the slate of candidates; Ms. Smith-King seconded. Motion passed and officers elected for FY2009. Mr. Ricci then referred to the handout showing current committee members, and asked everyone to fill out a form indicating their preferences for committee assignments in FY2009. The Chair will make committee assignments soon.

(4). Proposed Dates and Locations of FY 2008 – 2009 Quarterly Business Meetings. The next four quarterly business meetings will be held September 26 in Indianapolis, December 12 in Indianapolis, March 13 2009 in Evansville, and June 12 at a location to be determined. Ms. Smith-King recommended that the latter meeting take place in Gary.

4. Executive Director Report.

A. Staffing update. Mr. Ricci reported that April Blevins, former IAC Communications Manager, has been promoted to Grants & IT Manager, replacing Jay Chauhan who resigned. He also announced that Kristina Davis has joined the staff as Community Development Manager/Accessibility Coordinator.

B. Year-to-Date Financial Activity – Year End Projection. Mr. Ricci presented the report on projected year-end balance for the IAC budget, which shows that all programs are on-target or under-budget for the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Ricci thanked Deputy Director Michelle Anderson for her hard work on the budget throughout the year. Commissioners Stratten, Pas, and Tuchman all concurred with their thanks.

C. Regional Arts Partners Block Grant Funding Proposal. Mr. Ricci presented a handout showing the final distribution figures for the Regional Block Grants and recapped the process to arrive at those numbers. He iterated that the new funding formula will not take place until FY2010, when a two-year phase-in will begin. Mr. Stifel expressed his thanks for the hard work

put into the funding formula from all parties. He declared that the process was good. RAP chair Jeff Kuehl pronounced the formula “fair and equitable”, adding that two other components of the RAP grants have yet to be finalized. Mr. Stratten moved to approve the Regional Block Grant proposal; Mr. Pas seconded. Motion passed.

D. FY2008 – 2009 Proposed Budget. Mr. Ricci presented the FY2009 budget in handout form, saying that it is very similar to the FY2008 budget, with the addition of increases from NEA, the Cultural Trust, and the Indiana Endowment for the Arts. There is a state-mandated 7% “holdback” in administrative costs, which does not affect programming. Positive comments on the proposed budget were from Mr. Pas and Mr. Tuchman. Mr. Pas moved to approve the FY2009 budget as proposed; Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

E. Program and Partnership Updates.

(1). Cultural District Legislation and Program Development Process. Mr. Ricci reported that there is much interest being generated state-wide about the Cultural Districts program; many communities are interested in the arts as a means of moving forward economically.

(2). Call for Proposals, 2009 Governor’s Arts Awards. May 31 was the deadline for submitting letters of intent for hosting the 2009 GAA events. There were five cities and towns expressing interest. The application process will continue through the summer.

(3). Lincoln Bicentennial Initiative Partnership Update. Mr. Ricci announced that the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission selected Will Clark as the artist to produce the public art to be installed in Lincoln State Park. Ground breaking will be July 1, 2008, and completion will be June 30, 2009. Mr. Ricci briefly described the installation, which will consist of a plaza commemorating the years Mr. Lincoln lived in Indiana. Commissioner Ellerbrook will represent the IAC at the groundbreaking ceremony.

(4). OCRA/Tourism/Agriculture Partnership Update. Mr. Ricci presented an update on the Artisan Development Project. Juries are scheduled to be held over the summer to secure participating artisans. Ball State University will provide entrepreneurial training for the participating artisans. Project branding is being finalized.

(5). Poet Laureate Selection. Mr. Ricci announced that Norbert Krapf was chosen by the selection committee to be the next Indiana Poet Laureate, and asked the commission to approve the selection. Mr. Stratten moved for approval. Ms. Mirro seconded. Motion passed.

(6). Three year cycle NEA grant. Mr. Ricci reported that the next three-year cycle begins this summer.

Prior to a break in the meeting, Jon Kay of Traditional Arts Indiana announced that folk artist John Schoolman would be displaying his wares in the lobby of the Rhinehart Music Center and encouraged everyone to stop by and visit with the 99-year old wood carver.

A break was taken at 10:55 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11: 20 a.m.

5. Committee Reports.

A. Committee on the Future. Mr. Stratten presented the report in the absence of chair Mr. Hopper.

(1). He deferred to staff member Susan Britsch who reported on plans to fund arts education programs in schools K – 12, using NEA grant money. She expects the average

grant to an individual school to be \$5,000 to \$8,000; the expectation is that each receiving school will secure a community partner who will match the IAC grant. The guidelines for these grants are currently under consideration, and the application process will begin over the summer.

(2). Ms. Britsch reported that the Ad-Hoc Education Study Committee has met twice over the past months, and is evaluating its agenda and organization.

(3). Mr. Stratten reported that the Ad-Hoc Fund Development committee has met, and that various ideas are being investigated. Committee member Rose Meissner of the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County is working with other community foundations to find common ground for fund-raising for the arts state-wide, perhaps an endowment will be possible.

B. Program Evaluation Committee.

(1). Ms. Clark reported that the PEC committee met on May 29th to review applications for the American Masterpieces grants. She announced via a handout which organizations had been selected and the level of funding to be approved. Mr. Stratten moved to approve the recommendations of the Program Evaluation Committee regarding American Masterpieces grantees. Ms. Schreckengast seconded. Motion passed.

(2). IAC staff member Bobbie Garver explained the approval process for the Individual Artist grants. She presented a handout showing the 42 applicants whose projects were approved by the IAP panels. Ms. Schreckengast moved to approve the IAP grant winners for FY2009. Ms. Mirro seconded. Motion passed.

(3). Ms. Clark requested approval for using NEA grant money to fund the aforementioned Arts Education grants in Indiana schools K – 12. Ms. Mirro moved for approval. Mr. Pas seconded. Motion passed.

(4). Ms. Clark asked for approval of the Statewide Presenters Touring Program Grants which were previously discussed. Mr. Pas moved for approval, Ms. Ellerbrook seconded. Motion passed.

C. Advocacy & Awareness Committee.

(1). Mr. Stratten spoke of the work to establish criteria for hosting the 2009 Governor's Arts Awards, and presented the application form to be approved, saying that the application deadline may be extended beyond July 7th. Mr. Williams moved for approval, Ms. Mirro seconded. Motion passed.

D. Cultural Trust Advisory Board. Mr. Tuchman referred to his earlier remarks under item 3b(2)

6. Regional Arts Partners Update. Jeff Kuehl, RAP chair, gave a brief report about the latest RAP meeting and recent activities. Mr. Stratten recommended that all new commissioners should make a point to attend a quarterly RAP meeting early during their tenure.

7. Partnership Presentation. Jon Kay, director of Traditional Arts Indiana (TIA) gave a report on his organization and its activities. TAI is based at Indiana University, Bloomington.

8. Discussion Items. There were no discussion items.

9. **Old Business.** There was no old business

10. **New Business.** There was no new business

11. **Closing Comments and Presentation.** Mr. Stifel extended sincere thanks to Mr. Stratten, Mr. Pas and Mr. Hopper, who are retiring from the commission after this meeting. Both Mr. Stratten and Mr. Pas, who were present, responded with kind words for the organization. (Mr. Hopper was not present.) Mr. Stifel presented both with small gifts of appreciation. Mr. Ricci added his thanks to both.

12. **Adjourn.** Ms. Smith-King moved for adjournment. Ms. Clark seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.